REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-20 and 29-35 are pending in this application.

Objections to the Claims:

Claims 6, 10 and 15 were objected to as being in improper form. Claims 6, 10

and 15 have been amended so that they are now in proper U.S. format. Applicant

therefore requests that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as

allegedly being indefinite. Applicant submits that still pending claims 1-20 and 29

are in full conformance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. For example,

Applicant submits that all claim terms have a proper antecedent basis. Applicant

therefore respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-4, 11-12 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly

being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art in view of Aridor. Applicant

respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed

limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of the

admitted prior art and Aridor fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations.

For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest "wherein each of the at least

one said second program comprises code for performing at least a part of said task, and for communicating with said first program; and said first program is a co-ordinating program comprising code for communicating with said first computer, and for communicating with and co-ordinating each of said at least one second program," as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. The combination also fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, "co-ordinating operation of the task program through the co-ordinating program" as required by independent claim 29 and its dependents.

Aridor describes agents in a master-slave relationship. In particular, a static master agent remains at a first site and a slave agent visits another site which may report back to the master agent, possibly via a messenger agent. Groups of agents may be organized to travel together.

However, Aridor fails to teach or suggest providing a first program whose function to co-ordinate each of the other second program(s) on the remote (i.e., second) site. Accordingly, Aridor fails teach or suggest a second program for performing at least part of a task which communicates with a first program which is a co-ordinating program for co-ordinating each of the second program(s).

Section 3.2 (specifically identified in the Office Action) of Aridor simply describes that multiple tasks can be executed in parallel without further discussion. Aridor does not teach, suggest or even contemplate the problem of how and when multiple tasks are performed or a single task is segmented, the execution of which can be co-ordinated in the remote computer. Indeed, there is nothing in Aridor to motivate one skilled in the art to even consider the lack of communication between

the agents implementing parallel tasks being problematic from a co-ordination perspective.

Moreover, it is clear from Aridor that when more complex plan patterns are adopted, "the plan encapsulates the task flow, which is then hidden from the agent." (See section 3.2, third paragraph). This clearly teaches against the solution provided by the present invention in which second programs are able to communicate with each other via the first program which co-ordinates each of the second program(s).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 11-12 and 29 are not "obvious" over Applicant admitted prior art and Aridor and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art in view of Aridor and further in view of Berghoff et al (hereinafter "Berghoff"). Claims 5, 7, 8, 14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art in view of Aridor and further in view of Kozuka (U.S. '394). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Applicant admitted prior art in view of Aridor and further in view of "Objectspace." Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Claims 21-27 have been canceled without prejudice. Neither Berghoff, Kozuka nor "Objectspace" remedies the above described deficiencies of Applicant admitted prior art and Aridor with respect to base claim 1. Applicant thus requests that these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 30-35 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New independent claim 30 requires, *inter alia*, "wherein execution of the first program co-ordinates operations of the at least one second program in the second computer and results in communication with the first computer, and execution of the at least one second program performs at least part of a task." Applicant submits that claims 30-35 are allowable.
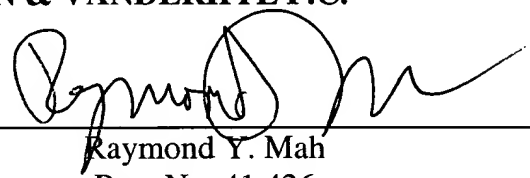
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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